six months and how does it reflect on the oil industry in the country;

(c) what is the likely shortage of edible oils and oil-seeds during 1990-91 as against the estimated demand;

(d) whether Government propose to import edible oils to improve capacity utilisation and to give relief to the oil industry besides containng the rising prices in consumer interest; and

(e) if so, what is the decision taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The overall capacity utilisation of the Oil industry is around 45 per cent.

(b) Average rise in the wholesale prices of oils during the last six months is around 19 per cent. No significant effect on the performance of oil industry has been noticed during the period.

(c) The gap between indigenous supply and demand for edible oils during the year 1990-91 is estimated around 11.58 lakh MT.

(d) and (e) Vegetable oils are being imported from time to time for Public Distribution System (PDS) depending upon various considerations like shortage of oils, foreign exchange reserves, prices in the domestic and international markets etc. Present situation does not envisage any imports for oil Industry.

Collision of Goods Trains at Guwahati

25. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of persons were killed and injured in the collision of two goods trains at Guwahati on the 8th January, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss of lives and property;

(d) the reasons of the accident; and

(e) whether any inquiry has since been conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (e) On 8-1-1991, a collision took place between two goods trains at Chautara station on the Alipurduar Division of Northeast Frontier Railways. As a result, 2 railway staff were killed and 2 others griveously injured.

Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 2.12 crores.

A departmental inquiry into this accident is in progress.

Derailment of 229 UP Durg-Waltair Passenger train

26. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven bogies of 229 Up Durg-Waltair Passenger train derailed in Raipur on the 4th January, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and injured;

(c) whether any compensation has since been paid to them;

(d) the loss of property due to accident and reasons of the accident; and

(e) whether any inquiry has since been conducted and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir, However, on 3-1-1991 at about 21.15 hrs., while 229 Up Durg-Waltair passenger was on run between Arang-Mahanadi and Belsonda stations of Waltair Division of South Eastern Railway, 7 coaches next to engine derailed.

(b) No passenger was killed or injured.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 90,000/-. A departmental inquiry into this accident is in progress.

Derailment of 4007 Up Allahabad-Bareilly Passenger Train

27. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven bogies of the 4007 Up Allahabad-Bareilly passenger train derailed between Allahabad and Prayag station on the 3rd January, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and injured;

(c) the compensation paid to the victims;

(d) the loss of property due to accident;

(e) the reasons of the accident; and

(f) whether any inquiry has since been conducted and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No passenger was killed. 12 passengers sustained injuries.

(c) No claim for compensation has been received. However, an *ex-gratia* ayment of Rs. 4,250/- has been made to the injured passengers.

(d) Damage to Railway property has been estimated at Rs. 80,000/-.

(e) and (f) A departmental inquiry has been held into the accident. As per its findings, the derailment occurred due to the girder of bridge No. 174 getting displaced when it was hit by an over-dimensional consignment loaded on a road vehicle which passed under the bridge.

Increase in the prices of edible oil

28. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI R. GANESAN alias MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for high prices of edible oils in the country and also the reasons for disappearance of popular brands of edible oils like 'DHARA' from the market;

(b) whether Government have sufficient stocks of edible oil to maintain its availability in the near future; if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the gap between the availability and requirement of edible oils in the country;

(d) whether Government propose to release more edible oils into the market through FPS and Super Bazar etc. to reduce the prices; and

(e) whether Government have taken any steps to contain the prices of edible oils which have gone up during the last two months; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (e) A contributory factor to the rise in prices of edible oils is the gap between the demand and supply. Government has been taking steps to bridge the gap by import of edible oil to the extent of foreign exchange availability and other factors related with the import of edible oils. Various measures have also been taken to improve the availability of indigenous oils and curb the price rise. Some of these measures are granting of excise rebate on use of non-conventional oils in vanaspati, reduction of stock limits of edible oils, permitting blending of dealers/processors and manufacturers of edible oils, permitting blending of conventional edible oil with non-con-